## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06603 091456Z ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W ------051641 092222Z /64

R 091420Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3169
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: ,/A TAGS: BEXP BR

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN BRAZILIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

**REF: STATE 173162** 

- 1. CONGEN RIO SPOKE WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CUSTOMS POLICY COUNCIL (CPA), ANTONIO PASCHOAL, RE LIKELY AMOUNT OF BRAZILIAN IMPORTS AFFECTED BY CPA RESOLUTION NO. 2969 OF MAY 31, 1977. PASCHOAL STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE RESOLUTION DID NOT INDICATE ANY LIMITS TO IMPORTS IN CATEGORIES EXEMPTED FROM PRIOR DEPOSIT, IT HAD BEEN ISSUED AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF VARIOUS GOB AGENCIES INTERESTED IN PARTICULAR IMPORTS. HE DOUBTED, THEREFORE, THAT OUTSIDE IMPORTERS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXEMPTIONS, SINCE VARIOUS MINISTRIES MUST APPROVE THE IMPORTS IN QUESTION AND WILL ONLY APPROVE THOSE ALREADY PLANNED FOR PROJECTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPETENCIES.
- 2. THIS SET OF EXEMPTIONS, DESIGNED MAINLY TO LOWER COSTS TO GOB AGENCIES FOR NECESSARY IMPORTS UNDER THEIR PROGRAMS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 06603 091456Z

SHOULD THEREFORE NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A SIGNIFICANT LESSENING OF GOB TRADE RESTRICTIONS. GOB IMPORT POLICY REMAINS VERY TIGHT, AS RECENTLY REPORTED (BRASILIA 6317 -- SEE ESPECIALLY PARAGRAPH 5 FOR COMMENTS ON PRIOR-DEPOSIT MECHANISM).

3. IT IS INTERSTING TO NOTE THAT A JULY 29 DECREE-

LAW EXEMPTED PETROBRAS FROM OBTAINING IMPORT LICENSES FOR EQUIPMENT FOR THE CAMPOS OFF-SHORE OILFIELDS (AIRGRAM BEING TRANSMITTED WITH DETAILS OF THIS DECREELAW). ALTHOUGH NUCLEBRAS IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE SEEKING WAIVERS FROM LICENSING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS, MINFIN SIMONSEN HAS STATED THAT THE ACTION ON PETROBRAS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS UNIQUE AND NOT AS A PRECEDENT FOR EXEMPTIONS FOR OTHER ENTITIES. PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTERS RESENT GOB AGENCIES' ACTIONS TO GAIN EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTROLS, AND DOMESTIC PRODUCERS OF EQUIPMENT SIMILAR TO THAT TO BE IMPORTED BY PETROBRAS AND OTHER GOB AGENCIES ARE CLEARLY OPPOSED TO SUCH EXEMPTIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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